

Serial No. 09/974,844
Amendment dated January 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2005

Docket No. P-0265

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-21 and 38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8-11 are amended, and claims 7, 22-29, 32 and 34-37 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to be pursued in a Continuation Application. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 38 is allowed, and that claims 7-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, and allowable claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form, including

all the limitations of base claim 1. Further, the amendments to claims 1 and 11 are also responsive to the Examiner's comments regarding the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 11, as well as claims 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 12-21 and 30, which depend respectively therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Further, as all of pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-21 and 38 are in condition for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that the application should also be in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-30, 32 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 7, 22-29, 32 and 34-37 are cancelled, and thus rejection with respect to these claims is moot. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 1 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and that remaining claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-21 and 30 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification clearly sets forth the relationship amongst the first and second connecting links and the image device unit. For example, paragraphs 43-46 and Figure 4 of the present application set forth this relationship for just one embodiment of the invention. That is, as shown, for example, in Figure 4 of the present

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application, the first connecting link 61 is rotatably connected to the main body 11 at a first end and rotatably connected to a second connecting link 55 at a second end. The second connecting link 55 is rotatably connected at a first end to the first connecting link 61, and rotatably connected to a rotation shaft 51 of a supporting plate 51 portion of the image device unit which supports the camera 31 thereon. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the specification as originally filed does support a rotatable connection between the second connecting link and the image device unit as was previously recited in independent claim 1.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 17-30, 32 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,412,417 to Tozuka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,396,269 to Gotoh et al. (hereinafter "Gotoh"). Claims 22-29, 32 and 34-37 are canceled, and thus the rejection in so far as it applies to these claims is moot. The rejection, in so far as it applies to remaining claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 17-21 and 30, is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, the subject matter of allowable claim 7 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tozuka and Gotoh should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 17-21

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and 30 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tozuka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,829,011 to Higuchi et al. (hereinafter "Higuchi"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 16 is allowable over Tozuka at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Further, Higuchi fails to overcome the deficiencies of Tozuka. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 16 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tozuka and Higuchi should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

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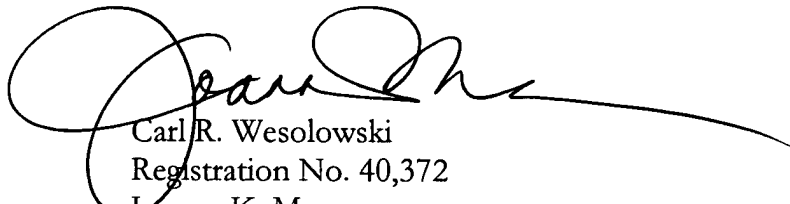
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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